

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 149

To change the date for regularly scheduled Federal elections and establish  
polling place hours.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 6, 2009

Mr. KOHL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to  
the Committee on Rules and Administration

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## A BILL

To change the date for regularly scheduled Federal elections  
and establish polling place hours.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Weekend Voting Act”.

5       **SEC. 2. CHANGE IN CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION DAY TO**  
6       **SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.**

7       Section 25 of the Revised Statutes (2 U.S.C. 7) is  
8       amended to read as follows:

9       “SEC. 25. The first Saturday and Sunday after the  
10      first Friday in November, in every even numbered year,

1 are established as the days for the election, in each of the  
 2 States and Territories of the United States, of Represent-  
 3 atives and Delegates to the Congress commencing on the  
 4 3d day of January thereafter.”.

5 **SEC. 3. CHANGE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DAY TO SAT-**  
 6 **URDAY AND SUNDAY.**

7 Section 1 of title 3, United States Code, is amended  
 8 by striking “Tuesday next after the first Monday” and  
 9 inserting “first Saturday and Sunday after the first Fri-  
 10 day”.

11 **SEC. 4. POLLING PLACE HOURS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—

13 (1) PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION.—

14 Chapter 1 of title 3, United States Code, is amend-  
 15 ed—

16 (A) by redesignating section 1 as section  
 17 1A; and

18 (B) by inserting before section 1A the fol-  
 19 lowing:

20 **“§ 1. Polling place hours**

21 **“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:**

22 **“(1) CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.—The**  
 23 **term ‘continental United States’ means a State**  
 24 **(other than Alaska and Hawaii) and the District of**  
 25 **Columbia.**

1           “(2) PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION.—The  
 2           term ‘Presidential general election’ means the elec-  
 3           tion for electors of President and Vice President.

4           “(b) POLLING PLACE HOURS.—

5           “(1) POLLING PLACES IN THE CONTINENTAL  
 6           UNITED STATES.—Each polling place in the conti-  
 7           nental United States shall be open, with respect to  
 8           a Presidential general election, beginning on Satur-  
 9           day at 10:00 a.m. eastern standard time and ending  
 10          on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. eastern standard time.

11          “(2) POLLING PLACES OUTSIDE THE CONTI-  
 12          NENTAL UNITED STATES.—Each polling place not  
 13          located in the continental United States shall be  
 14          open, with respect to a Presidential general election,  
 15          beginning on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. local time and  
 16          ending on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. local time.

17          “(3) EARLY CLOSING.—A polling place may  
 18          close between the hours of 10:00 p.m. local time on  
 19          Saturday and 6:00 a.m. local time on Sunday as  
 20          provided by the law of the State in which the polling  
 21          place is located.”.

22          (2) CONGRESSIONAL GENERAL ELECTION.—  
 23          Section 25 of the Revised Statutes of the United  
 24          States (2 U.S.C. 7) is amended—

1 (A) by redesignating section 25 as section  
2 25A; and

3 (B) by inserting before section 25A the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 **“SEC. 25. POLLING PLACE HOURS.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.—The  
8 term ‘continental United States’ means a State  
9 (other than Alaska and Hawaii) and the District of  
10 Columbia.

11 “(2) CONGRESSIONAL GENERAL ELECTION.—  
12 The term ‘congressional general election’ means the  
13 general election for the office of Senator or Rep-  
14 resentative in, or Delegate or Resident Commis-  
15 sioner to, the Congress.

16 “(b) POLLING PLACE HOURS.—

17 “(1) POLLING PLACES INSIDE THE CONTI-  
18 NENTAL UNITED STATES.—Each polling place in the  
19 continental United States shall be open, with respect  
20 to a congressional general election, beginning on  
21 Saturday at 10:00 a.m. eastern standard time and  
22 ending on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. eastern standard  
23 time.

24 “(2) POLLING PLACES OUTSIDE THE CONTI-  
25 NENTAL UNITED STATES.—Each polling place not

1 located in the continental United States shall be  
 2 open, with respect to a congressional general elec-  
 3 tion, beginning on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. local time  
 4 and ending on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. local time.

5 “(3) EARLY CLOSING.—A polling place may  
 6 close between the hours of 10:00 p.m. local time on  
 7 Saturday and 6:00 a.m. local time on Sunday as  
 8 provided by the law of the State in which the polling  
 9 place is located.”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

11 (1) The table of sections for chapter 1 of title  
 12 3, United States Code, is amended by striking the  
 13 item relating to section 1 and inserting the fol-  
 14 lowing:

“1. Polling place hours.

“1A. Time of appointing electors.”.

15 (2) Sections 871(b) and 1751(f) of title 18,  
 16 United States Code, are each amended by striking  
 17 “title 3, United States Code, sections 1 and 2” and  
 18 inserting “sections 1A and 2 of title 3”.

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